

U.S. Application No. 10/797,532, filed March 10, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 14883US02
Amendment dated May 20, 2008
In Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2008

Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement sheets for FIGS. 1-3 are enclosed. Each sheet has been marked "REPLACEMENT SHEET".

The replacement sheets replace the sheets of drawings for FIGS. 1-3.

As requested by the Examiner, the replacement sheets add descriptions to FIGS. 1-3.

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are pending. Claims 1 and 37-50 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 51-56 are allowed. It is believed that claims 2-36 are in condition for allowance in view of at least the amendments and remarks herein.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 51-56 are allowed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 19 and 22-36 recite patentable subject matter.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requested that descriptions be added to the drawings. As per the request of the Examiner, Applicants have added descriptions to the drawings. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to the drawings.

The Examiner objected to claim 35. In the objection, the Examiner proposed replacing "the first switch" with --a first switch--. Applicants have amended claim 35 according to the Examiner's proposal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to claim 35.

Claims 22-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being allegedly indefinite. In the rejection, the Examiner proposed inserting --the first NIC to-- after "not pass through" in line 8 of claim 22 and to insert --the second NIC to-- after "not pass through" in line 10 of claim 22. Although Applicants believes that claim 22, as previously pending, is definite in view of at least the specification and drawings, Applicants have amended claim 22 to include the Examiner's proposed amendments. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to claims 22-36.

In the Office Action Made Final mailed April 10, 2008, the Examiner indicated that claims 22-36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. In view of adopting the Examiner's proposed amendment to claim 22, it is believed that claims 22-36 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-21 and 37-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Although Applicants believe that the written

description requirement has been fully met in view of the specification and the drawings, Applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, claim 1 and claims 37-40.

Applicants have amended claims 2-21 to depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 22, which is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2-21 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 22, it is believed that claims 2-21 are in condition for allowance.

In order to place the present application in condition for allowance, Applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, claims 41-50.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, the subject matter recited in any of the cancelled and/or amended claims in a continuing or related application.

Applicants do not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Michael T. Cruz/

Michael T. Cruz

Reg. No. 44,636

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

500 West Madison Street, Suite 3400

Chicago, Illinois 60661

Telephone: (312) 775-8000

Facsimile: (312) 775-8100